

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 have been amended to overcome pending objections and rejections and to improve readability. Pivotably has been replaced by pivotally in the claims at the Examiner's request, although applicants submit that both terms have the same meaning. Claims 1-6 remain pending.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 4, and 6 were objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objections.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner to remove its direct reference to a body part. Thus, the rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as unpatentable over Sadritabrizi (U.S. Patent No. 6,471,657). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. To anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of the claim. *MPEP* 2131. As amended, claim 1 recites the winding length adjusting unit that is capable of selecting among three states. Sadritabrizi's blood pressure cuff can only be adjusted between two states, as depicted in Figures 5A and 5B. Thus, Sadritabrizi does not teach an adjusting unit being capable of selecting among three states. Because Sadritabrizi does not disclose this element of claim 1, Sadritabrizi does not anticipate claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, each of the pending claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 163852020900.

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Respectfully submitted,

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